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ABSTRACT

Presented are the proceedings of the Conference on Planning and Management in European National Parks and equivalent Category "C" reserves held at the Peak National Park Study Center, Castleton, England, in 1977. Fifty-two representatives from 16 countries focused practical solutions to management and planning problems in national parks. (BT)

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EUROPEAN HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

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An account of the conference on Planning and Management in European Naturparke/Parcs Naturels/ National Parks (U.K.) and equivalent Category "C" reserves, held at the Peak National Park Study Centre, Losehill Hall, Castleton. September 26 - 30, 1977.

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Conference Directors:

Dr. Hans Köpp, Göttingen University, West Germany.

Dr. E. C. M. Roderkerk, past Director,
Die Kennemenduinnen National Park, Netherlands.

Theo Burrell, National Park Officer, Peak National Park.

Rosie Simpson, Lecturer, Losehill Hall.

Conference report written and edited by Roland Smith.

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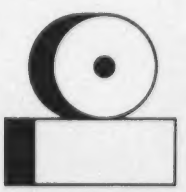


European Heritage Landscapes Conference, Losehill Hall

SEPTEMBER 26 - 30 1977

Introduction: Losehill Hall and its first European Conference. How it all began.

—Theo Burrell, National Park Officer, Peak National Park.

Monday, September 26, 1977

Welcome: Ivor Morten, Vice-Chairman, Peak Park Joint Planning Board.

Tuesday, September 27, 1977—Heritage Landscapes

International Significance—Rawdon Goodier, Advisory Officer, Nature Conservancy Council.

National Heritage Landscapes in Europe—Dr. Hans Köpp, Göttingen University, West Germany.

National Parks in England and Wales—Patrick Leonard, Assistant Director, Countryside Commission

Conclusions and Recommendations.

Wednesday, September 28, 1977—Management

Strategy—Theo Burrell.

Tactics—Dr. E. C. M. Roderkerk, past Director, Die Kennemenduinnen National Park, Holland.

Environmental Education in National Parks—Peter Townsend, Principal, Peak National Park Residential Study Centre.

Conclusions and Recommendations.

Town and Country Planning in Britain—Audrey Lees, County Planning Officer, Merseyside County Council.

Thursday, September 29, 1977—An Inhabited Landscape

Working with the Local Population—L. P. Balay, Director, Parc Naturel Regional d'Amorique, France.

Working with Farming—Ivor Morten.

Land Management and Executive Panels in the Peak District—Theo Burrell.

Conclusions.

Losehill Hall and its first European conference: How it all began

THEO BURRELL, National Park Officer, Peak National Park

Schools and others "do" environmental education. For those in the surrounding cities, where better for your environmental studies—botany, geology and the rest—than the Peak District? Those in search of recreation—millions of them each year—head for the Peak District also. Yet those who live here depend on that same land for their livelihood. It is, after all, their land.

In such conditions, conflict is considerable, but so is the scope for co-operation. Before there can be co-operation, there must be understanding. A meeting point is needed. And so the idea of the Losehill Hall National Park Study Centre was born.

Losehill Hall now runs a wide range of courses and conferences. There are conferences for teachers; there are sessions for sixth formers, for professional societies and amenity groups, for geographers and for those who just like to look at landscape, for walkers and for aspiring wall builders and well dressers, for ecologists and for those who would like to know more about butterflies or ancient trackways. There is, above all, the chance for town and country people to meet, and there is the opportunity for different professions to meet. The latter happens all too rarely in our modern world of specialisation. Conservation implies a wider view.

Losehill Hall has provided also a chance for those who have to deal with planning and management problems in English and Welsh National Parks to meet and discuss problems together, the basis of such meetings being common involvement, not instruction. But, we thought, wouldn't local managers from other parts of Europe have similar problems? There had never been such a conference before—at least, not at local technical level. We decided we would set one up and see if there was a response. Dr. Hans Köpp of Göttingen University, West Germany, and Dr. E. C. M. Roderkerk, the past Director of Die Kennemeduinnen National Park in the Netherlands were involved in that initiative and in directing the conference.

The first problem was one of language, but not the language difficulty you might expect. The real problem was one of definition. A "national park" in England is very different from a "national park" in Switzerland or Belgium. There was a risk that the whole week would be spent with each of us defending our nation's definitions. In such circumstances there would be more argument than action, more highlighting of difference than problem solving. Fortunately the Council of Europe had already distinguished between different forms of landscape protection and produced a standard system. We were Category C, a "lived-in" landscape used for recreation, but with a conservation objective in our terms of reference. We used the term European Heritage Landscape to cover Parcs Naturels in France,

Naturparke in Germany, National Parks in England and Wales and whatever other term each country might have at home for such a protected landscape.

The second problem of international meetings is cost. Many are grander affairs than we could afford. There are traditions of host nations, rules of protocol and so on. If we had to seek a sponsor it could be very heavy going. We wanted a simple working conference within our limit of 60 residential places; so we did what we usually did—offered a conference for a fee, seeking to cover our costs in the process. The conference could then be open to all, though the theme of planning and management was slanted to attract local managers.

A third problem was to avoid long, dry papers, speeches and platitudes. We determined we would ask for notes only, we would split into small groups as quickly as possible and we would concentrate on practical problems. (As for the platitudes, I needn't have panicked about my failure to find a translation of that word into French and German for, as events turned out, those taking part didn't produce them).

We were helped by many people in setting up the conference, for we had advance mention in many newsletters and bulletins of international agencies and we chose a date immediately after the meeting in the English Lake District of the European Federation of Nature and National Parks, the Federation circulating details of the Losehill conference with their own material. We also contacted local managers in the countries of Western Europe near to the U.K. At our conference we had the benefit of an excellent new film on National Parks and Nature Parks throughout Europe produced by Henry Makowski for the Federation. Mr. Makowski was one of the participants at our conference.

We were surprised by the range of the response to our conference. Enrolments came from people from Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, West Germany, Romania, Eire, Finland, Denmark, Turkey, Iran—even from Canada, U.S.A. and Australia. Participants were mainly from individual parks and national agencies, plus a few from educational institutions and voluntary societies. Most were people with practical problems like our own. The 52 participants were more than we had expected but it was, by a small margin, within the residential capacity of Losehill Hall.

The conference coincided with the time of an informal visit to the Peak District by Kenneth Marks, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, and Mr. John Cripps, Chairman of the Countryside Commission for England and Wales. We were very honoured that the Minister was able to join us and to briefly wish us well during the course of the conference.

Welcome

IVOR MORTEN, Vice-Chairman, Peak Park Joint Planning Board

Mr. Morten welcomed participants to the country and to the Peak Park—"the first and best National Park in the country".

He referred to the neglect of yesterday and the need for conservation today, so that our heritage was protected for tomorrow. Quoting the case of dinosaurs, which became extinct through their bodies apparently becoming too big for their heads, he said that perhaps the human race was in danger of their heads becoming too big for their bodies.

It was heartening to note the greater environmental awareness among people today. The interest which had been shown in the fate of "Victor", the giraffe, showed this awareness extended to animals, too. The British love of wildlife was well known and if Victor had increased this awareness, he would not have died in vain.

Mr. Morten said he hoped that the deliberations of the conference would be extended to action in the field. There was, he said, a need for ongoing dialogue and action between interested bodies such as this.

International Significance

RAWDON GOODIER, Advisory Officer,
Nature Conservancy Council, Edinburgh

The relationship of Category "C" landscapes to other categories in the Council of Europe's classification of protected areas, and other related initiatives was considered.

Category "C" landscapes were less strictly protected than Category A and B National Parks and Nature Reserves. They included areas assigned mainly because of their cultural and aesthetic value. Traditional activities were allowed, also some strictly controlled non-traditional activities. There was some recreational pressure in these areas also.

Other initiatives included Biogenetic Reserves, which were representative examples of flora and fauna, and usually fell within Categories A and B; and the resolutions by the Committee of Ministers on ecological charters for mountain regions in Europe.

These concentrated on many issues of central importance to the subject of this conference, including:

1. The need for proper development, planning and population policies for mountain areas.
2. The need for the protection of special landscapes and the establishment of biogenetic reserves in co-operation with the U.N.E.S.C.O. programme.
3. Careful management of land use.
4. International co-operation.

Further initiatives had included ones on hedgerow landscapes, heathland management, and the protection of lake shores and river banks.

Activities promoted by U.N.E.S.C.O., particularly the establishment of Biosphere Reserves (it was envisaged that about 100 of these might be established in Europe) under the Man and Biosphere programme were also considered.

The concept of Biosphere Reserves went some way towards bridging the gap between landscape conservation based on scientific value, and that based on cultural and aesthetic value.

In fact, it was not scientific value which determined the choice of a designated area, but its value for nature conservation. Nature conservation, however, was not a scientifically determined activity, though it might make use of information derived by scientific methods. Nature conservation was primarily a cultural activity.

Raymond Dasmann, of I.U.C.N., had proposed a different attitude towards classification methods, which recognised three main types of protected area, plus a fourth, "multiple use" area. These were:

1. Protected anthropological areas.
2. Protected historical or archaeological areas.
3. Protected natural areas.
4. Multiple use areas.

This also reduced the gap between the protection of landscape for purely "scientific" or nature conservation purposes, and for amenity and culture, and presented a spectrum fulfilling different human cultural needs.

The problems caused by restricting public access to certain areas was discussed, and the difficulties in interpretation and public relations caused by such policies outlined. "But to what extent do people have to physically experience something to participate in it?" People were often able to express sympathy or concern with issues, e.g. the fate of the whale or tiger, without directly experiencing them.

International obligations and responsibilities had to be recognised in trying to conserve landscapes. We must hope that the spirit which led to the establishment of protected areas would continue to grow to embrace the wider international field.

The importance of heritage landscapes went far beyond their visual beauty or value for recreation because it epitomised important options which man has, related to himself and his environment.

However, we had to remember that these landscapes were invariably dynamic systems, and our aim should be to conserve, not simply preserve.

National Heritage Landscapes in Europe

DR. HANS KÖPP, Göttingen University, West Germany

One of the preparatory papers had spoken of "European" Heritage Landscapes, a slight but very important and distinct difference from the title of this theme.

The film of the night before had shown that many, if not all, the reserves mentioned did have a significance far beyond national borders. This was not only true for natural and nature parks and equivalent reserves, but it was also true for many of the heritage landscapes.

Europeans sometimes seemed to forget those values, which were much more than just a few aesthetic or amenity standards, or they took it for granted, being only reminded by overseas visitors.

We did not want to enter into linguistic difficulties or semantics, nor did we want to contribute to the never-ending arguments about terminology. There were other institutions and other places to do this.

Italia Nostra, for example, had made a fine contribution towards the last General Assembly of Europa Nostra in Vienna, identifying their heritage landscapes with all their problems. This had been recently published in "NATURE AND NATIONAL PARKS", the three-lingual quarterly bulletin of the Federation of Nature and National Parks in Europe.

Instead we should simply reflect on examples of European Heritage Landscapes in order to understand what they were. This did not mean to point to the great items of the common natural and cultural heritage in Europe, for example, the castles along the Loire in France; the romantic gothic cathedrals of Europe; the Acropolis in Greece, or

Theoderick's grave in Ravenna; the beauty of Venice or the Roman roads in Britain or, even further back, the circle of giant stones at Stonehenge.

We were not referring to those great examples of undebated harmony between cultural and nature which were the "blessèd gifts of our past". Others have said, believing that it was sufficient to safeguard them, that they were "heavy burdens to society and governments" indicating or pretending their awareness and responsibility under the financial squeeze.

Heritage landscapes might not even be countryside in our system of various reserves—they often were not!

What did it mean then; what was, or at least should be, our common concern?

The following examples were nothing more than a random selection and by no means excluded others: there was the tiny turf house in a remote part of Iceland, surrounded by rugged volcanic terrain; there was a relatively unknown stone village in the Cotswolds somewhere off the main road, surrounded by rolling countryside and in harmony with its huge trees; there was the little fishing village in Yugoslavia on the Adriatic coast with hardly any changes over the centuries; there was the traditional Bavarian "inn" next to the church in a small hamlet; there were the mountain farms with their livestock in Austria, Switzerland, Northern Italy or France; there was the windmill scenery in Holland, or there were the vineyards alongside the rivers Rhine and Moselle, inherited from Roman times.

The turf house had become derelict several years ago, the farmer had left and would probably never come back; the stone village was threatened by a by-pass, cutting it off from the surrounding hills; the fishing village had been "discovered" by an international tourist enterprise; the inn had suffered severe competition from a modern 3-star hotel listed in thousands of copies of guide books from the A.A., R.A.C., or A.D.A.C.; the mountain farm had become almost "problem number one" together with most of its neighbours; the windmill had survived—as the second home of someone from Amsterdam; the vineyards, reflecting European agricultural policy, had tried to respond in their way, but had been converted into large and monotonous vine-growing fields. Moreover, many villages near Göttingen had almost lost their character because their traditional timber frame structures had been covered with modern products of the building industry which claimed that this would keep maintenance costs down. It might well do, but it also reduced the specific value, and the villages' identification and heritage.

Recently, European Heritage Year 1975, organised jointly by the Council of Europe and EUROPA NOSTRA, had reversed this trend and had given several extremely convincing examples. It had also made people start thinking about change again, perhaps in less than ten years this time, and perhaps with public funds from the Departments for Monuments and Sites, rather than from those for "doubtful improvements".

In order to point to the crucial questions, it had to be made clear that one did not advocate "museum landscapes" but on the contrary; living and developing landscapes as dynamic as possible. It would certainly be unrealistic to maintain things only because we had become used to them. Changes had to be accepted; they had always happened. It would be equally unrealistic, if not worse, for a country to apply to become a nature reserve.

6

But we should, on the other hand, no longer believe that all the changes were essential, unavoidable or so-called improvements; many were not!

Conservation was indeed universal, it could no longer be the hobby of some specialists who sometimes argued amongst themselves about a few scattered nature reserves.

Heritage was not the very "rare stamp" which happened to be in the collection, but made up its main value. For too long conservationists had exclusively concentrated on a few species of flora and fauna and some tiny reserves.

It was the whole set of stamps which counted and which relied on even the smallest one. And this was, or must become, similar in both the natural and cultural environment.

It was not more money for conservation without which the efforts would fail; but it was sometimes less money against it.

In caring for European Heritage Landscapes, not only national ones, we should engage ourselves in two important aspects, which were time and scale.

This was perhaps the biggest difference between changes which had occurred in the past and those of today. If one did not concentrate on this heritage, it might soon be too late. Heritage, in this sense, meant Europe's diversity, both naturally and culturally, and not its present monotony. As Alexander Mitschelich had said it cannot be just the name of the destination town on your railway ticket which differs from that of another town, but it was and should remain each town's individuality and heritage which was our common responsibility.

National Parks in England and Wales

PATRICK LEONARD, Assistant Director, Countryside Commission

National Parks seem to be a mark of national affluence and maturity. Our thinking towards the countryside in this country had been affected by the views of romantics like Wordsworth.

British National Parks were more like William Morris's concept of privately owned areas used for farming, quarrying, water gathering and other activities.

John Dower's report during the 1940's made the first clear-cut proposals for a system of National Parks in England and Wales. His conception was:

"an extensive area of beautiful and relatively wild country in which for the nation's benefit and by appropriate national decision and action

(1) the characteristic landscape beauty is strictly preserved,

(2) access and facilities for public open air enjoyment are amply provided,

(3) wildlife and buildings and places of architectural and historic interest are suitably protected, while

(4) established farming use is effectively maintained."

The 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act was the first National Parks legislation, in which they were given two purposes:

(1) the preservation and enhancement of natural beauty and

(2) the encouragement and provision of facilities for the enjoyment of the National Parks.

It is interesting that these measures did not foresee substantial changes in agriculture or forestry, but saw farming as essential to maintain the character of the Park.

During the 1950's, the National Parks Commission (now the Countryside Commission) designated 10 National Parks. The first two (the Peak and Lake District) were administered by boards, the other eight by advisory committees.

The Local Government Act, 1972, stated that National Park authorities would receive 75% of their expenses from central government, and would have one-third of their members appointed by the Minister.

The National Park Policies Review Committee under Lord Sandford recommended that where two objectives were in conflict, conservation should override recreation.

National Parks had changed substantially since their designation. They had been relatively successful in containing rapid industrial or commercial growth, but less successful in stopping major developments seen to be in the national interest. The technological revolution in agriculture and increased afforestation had also affected National Parks.

Between 1951 and 1971, the population of the National Parks increased by only 1% while the total population of England and Wales rose by 11%. This static population masked a substantial outflow of young people from the Parks, and a substantial increase of people entering the Parks to retire or as commuters.

The changes in recreational use have been dramatic, it was estimated that 75 million day visits were made to the 10 parks in 1974.

Thirty per cent of Parks staff are directly or indirectly engaged on planning; 20% in wardening, and 15% on information work. Expenditure had risen rapidly, and was now about £4½ million per annum for all Parks.

National Park Plans which each Park were required to produce, set the guidelines for expenditure and action in the future, and the ways in which the action of other agencies could be co-ordinated.

The future of National Parks probably lay not in conserving historic landscapes or semi-natural environments, but in setting an environmental example. The challenge was to achieve this in co-ordination with national and international policies on the agricultural, forestry, mineral and energy industries.

Conclusions and Recommendations

GROUP 1—EUROPEAN HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

Chaired by Dr. Hans Köpp

1. The group proposed a greater awareness of heritage landscapes whether inside or outside national and nature parks and equivalent reserves.
2. Conservation efforts should not be limited to reserves, which sometimes cover only a minor percentage of the countries concerned. They should also equally cover important landscapes in rural and even urban areas outside reserves.
3. The group was not in favour of having a new system of protected areas.
4. Local people were often afraid of new kinds of restrictions, particularly on farming and forestry. Some developments should be allowed to proceed, under control and in a limited way.
5. Education was most important, and a lot more had to be done. Losehill Hall provided a good example as a pioneer project in this country, showing what could be done with limited resources and funds.
6. In the political sphere, local politicians should be encouraged to promote the advantages of living in a dynamic protected landscape, not in a well-preserved "museum". But "there have been no votes in the conservation of the landscape".

GROUP 2—NATIONAL PARKS, NATURPARKE, PARCS NATURELS ETC.

Chaired by Mr. Patrick Leonard

We were almost all talking about dynamic landscapes; areas which were undergoing change. Only a few smaller areas exist which can be conserved "to stop the clock".

What standards should be used to control these changes?

1. Control mechanisms, such as those used by National Park Authorities. For example, in Tasmania, farmers may soon have to apply for changes in land use.
2. Integrating national policies. There should be national policies for some types of control in National Park areas, and more local policies for others. A compromise was needed between these two types of control.
3. Direct management; some activities may be made more profitable by direct and indirect assistance (e.g. seed potatoes in Brittany).

GROUP 3—CATEGORY "C" LANDSCAPES AND THE EEC

Chaired by Mr. A. F. Holford-Walker, European Environmental Bureau

1. We noted that the Council of Europe was more environmentally and ecologically involved than was the EEC. One has to look closely for even a mention of Category "C" landscapes in EEC documents.

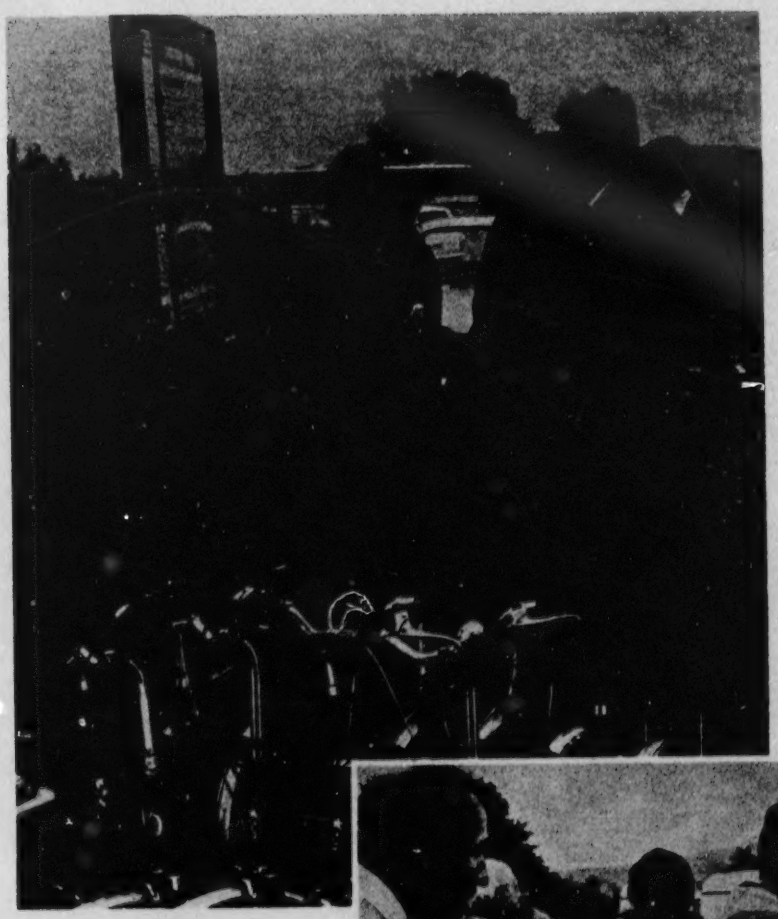
2. We advised closer co-operation and liaison between the Council of Europe and the EEC.
3. We feel the EEC should be called on to take note of the various landscape designations and directives applying to their area.
4. It should also take note of the effects of these agricultural policies and their impact in remote areas, e.g. Exmoor.
5. There was a need to identify clearly what is needed from the EEC so that Category "C" landscapes can be maintained and improved. This could be done by the Federation of Nature and National Parks in Europe with similar related agencies submitting a paper to the European Environmental Bureau. A direct approach to the EEC was thought to be necessary.
6. The group recommended that the EEC should promote the Environmental and Consumer Protection Service to the full status of a directorate. In discussion, Dr. D. M. Calder of the University of Melbourne, Australia, stressed the difference between nature reserves, which were protected and preserved, and heritage landscapes, which were positive and dynamic.

A group photograph of conference participants outside Losehill Hall.

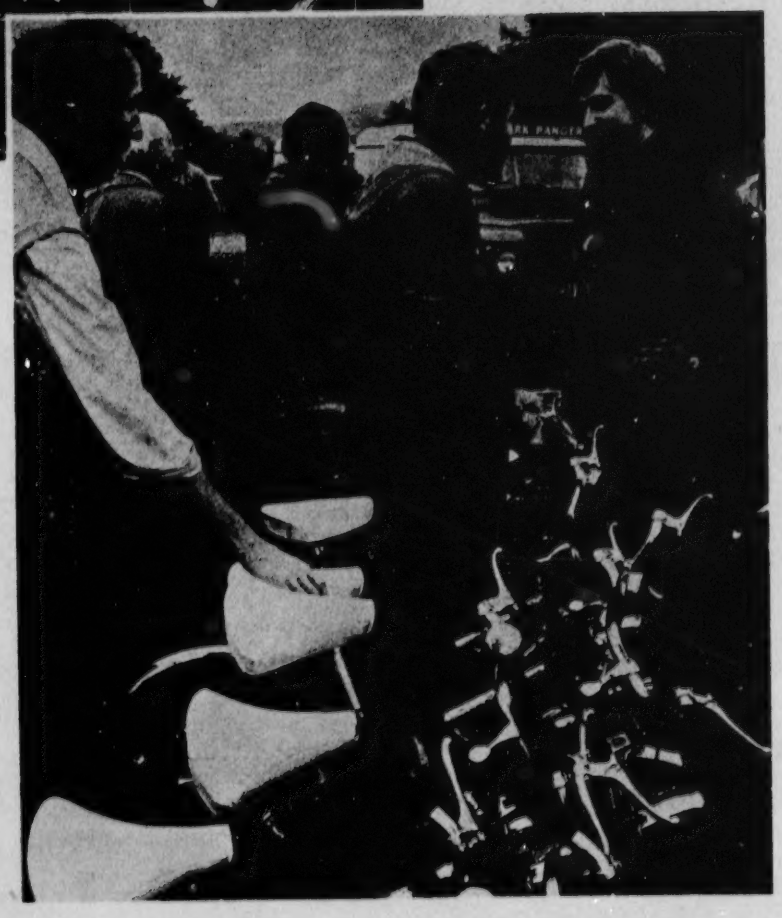
Conference director Theo Burrell and a participant in conversation.

Conference members meet Southern Area Ranger, Andrew Haddon, at Hartington.

Haydn Morris, Experiments Organiser and conference members at Hartington.



Conference members inspect a "Routes for People" notice at Parsley Hay.



Collecting cycles from Parsley Hay.

At the Parsley Hay Cycle Hire Centre.

Setting off from Parsley Hay.

Strategy

THEO BURRELL, National Park Officer, Peak National Park

In any discussion on Strategy "C" landscapes there was a need to reconcile the three elements of conservation, recreation, and the livelihood of local people.

The basis of a strategy needed to be established at the outset. This could be done by six methods:

1. The policy document—a commitment to objectives. For example, the Peak District National Park Structure Plan.
2. Arrangements for management, or wise husbandry. These included ecological protection (nature reserves) and access, to be combined with forestry and farming. These arrangements would be made by control, by persuasion, by key initiatives, or by agreement.
3. Zoning—the laying down of different priorities in different areas. This had to include the relationship between farming or forestry and recreation; between recreation and conservation, and between public and private land.
4. Transport planning and management. This could be achieved by the exclusion of irrelevant traffic; by the provision of access, and by assessing the local, visitor and conservation needs.
5. Gaining the co-operation of other agencies, such as highways, local councils, farming, forestry, etc.
6. "Bridge-building" between people. This could be achieved by explaining the benefit, and involving local people, and by preparation for visitors.

Using the Peak District as an example, management was achieved by four major methods. These were:

1. The national designation of the Park, and the local planning administration.
2. The use of the British Town and Country Planning system plus other initiatives.
3. The Structure Plan, which outlined (a) landscape conservation policies, (b) recreation policies, (c) village policies, (d) housing, employment and community services, (e) transport, minerals and water resource policies.
4. The National Park Plan, which concentrated on recreation and conservation policies within the Structure Plan framework.

Tactics

Dr. E. C. M. RODERKERK, Past Director,
Die Kennemenduinnen National Park, Holland

How do we protect nature in our natural and national parks? We could not simply keep visitors out—that would not be right. Parks are meant to exist for the benefit of human beings. We all paid the costs of maintaining them and for that reason all of us should have the opportunity of enjoying their natural beauty.

In the Netherlands, many visitors were attracted by the advertising before the park was established. It claimed that it would become an improvement, with an increase of recreational opportunities.

So we had to accept visitors.

How can we prevent damage?

Putting up barbed wire fences to protect certain parts would irritate and even tend to do some harm. Using barbed wire was polluting the natural beauty: this material was for use on battlefields only. "I am surprised that even after the war, some people still want to live in a concentration camp". Prohibitory signs were irritating as well, as most of the visitors would not understand why something was prohibited.

If we put up positive signs explaining why some activities could not be allowed, they were much more effective and the ugly word "forbidden" could be avoided. Moreover by offering them alternatives, it was possible to lead people off to parts of the Park where they could hardly cause any damage.

During 26 years of management of the Kennemenduinnen National Park we proved how successful these measures could be.

The National Park consisted of 3,000 acres of very vulnerable sand-dunes. More than 3 million people lived within a radius of 20 miles. The annual number of visitors was approximately 700,000. Thanks to the above measures, more than 80% of them concentrate on only 500 acres of no importance to the biologist. And they do it without being compelled.

Nevertheless, the best way of avoiding damage was to get people interested in nature.

Environmental Education in National Parks

PETER TOWNSEND, Principal, Peak National Park Study Centre

The following observations could have some similarities with the educational aims of other countryside organisations (e.g. Countryside Commissions, Nature Conservancy Council, Council for the Protection of Rural England, The National Farmers' Union, The National Trust, The Forestry Commission).

A. AIMS (WHY)

National Park Authorities (N.P.A's) in England and Wales have a statutory duty (National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949) to preserve and enhance natural beauty and to provide for people's enjoyment.

1. The resource—the countryside—is under most pressure from over-use by educational bodies, as well as the general public. The educational responsibility of the Local Education Authorities is too far removed to be effective 'in the field'. Thus the vacuum can be, and in some cases is, filled by N.P.A's.
2. Urban man is seeking 'happiness' in National Parks. Environmental education can be a process for providing spiritual well-being.

B. PERSONNEL (WHO)

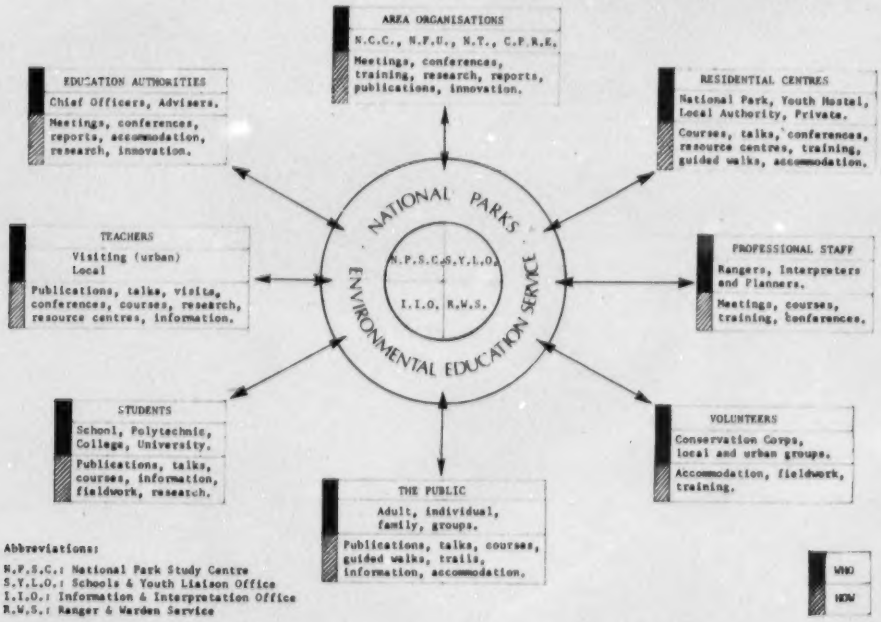
The communication and understanding of conservation is an inter-related process involving many sectors of society.

1. The N.P.A's have four ways which collectively could provide an environmental education service:
   (a) National Park Study Centres (N.P.S.C.).
   (b) Schools and Youth Liaison Officers (S.Y.L.O.).
   (c) Information and Interpretation Officers (I.I.O.).
   (d) Ranger/Warden Services (R.W.S.).

   (See diagram.)
2. The environmental education service could be directed to (and from):

   (a) Area Organisations, (b) Local Education Authorities (L.E.A's), (c) Teachers, (d) Students, (e) Residential Centres. (f) Professional Staff, (g) Volunteers and (h) the Public.

A MODEL for the RÔLE of NATIONAL PARKS in ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



Abbreviations:

N.P.S.C.: National Park Study Centre
S.Y.L.O.: Schools & Youth Liaison Office
I.I.O.: Information & Interpretation Office
R.W.S.: Ranger & Warden Service

C. CONTENT (WHAT)

Environmental programmes will vary regionally, locally and individually. Strict adherence to environmental causes should not be suppressed.

Examples—Losehill Hall annual programme.
—Youth and Schools Liaison Service publications.
—Information Service publications.

D. METHOD (HOW)

A comprehensive list of the techniques of communication is listed below. An appropriate selection is appended to each relevant group on the diagram.

Information	Talks	Field work
Publications	Meetings	Trails
Resource Centres	Conferences	Guided Walks
Reports	Courses	
Research	Training	Audio-Visual
Innovation	Accommodation	Programmes

E. ATTITUDE

Environmental education is only commonsense communication. Look around with an open mind and heart and when you see, and understand, what is good tell all about it. Where are the positive, dynamic messengers of today? The inventiveness and innovation of man CAN be 'ecologically' sound. Only thus will "nature invade the consciousness of the world" (D. C. Peattie, Green Laurels 1936).

Conclusions and Recommendations

GROUP 1—STRATEGY
Chaired by Theo Burrell

1. The group defined conservation as "the wise use of resources". Dr. Köpp said the expression "sustained yield"—"living from the interest but not touching the capital" might be appropriate. We discussed whether, as a general principle, we could establish that conservation was more important than recreation, in cases of conflict between the two. M. L. P. Balay (France) suggested that the word "active" should be inserted in front of the word conservation for conservation was a positive thing—it should not mean fossilisation.
2. A zoning system was considered desirable, where necessary, because the public would always come to most Category "C" landscapes and it was sensible to decide which area could best take the pressure.
3. Most plans, and zones, were related to land use, but perhaps they should relate more to carrying capacity, but how was this to be defined? We decided it must be an empirical decision.
4. There was a need for negotiation between different agencies in order to work towards sharing objectives.
5. We should work towards redistributing funds, like agricultural subsidies, so that they relate to other national agencies. The "cheap

food" policy was an illusion for the price was paid in taxes and sensible objectives were not always achieved. The "beef mountain" and "butter mountain" were well known. In the course of achieving such surpluses agriculture often had an adverse effect on conservation. Yet we could decide the landscape we wanted as well as the products we wanted whilst supporting rural communities. Subsidy should combine these objectives. It was essential that the administrative framework was right and that Category "C" landscapes were related to other strategies.

GROUP 2—TACTICS

Chaired by Dr. E. C. M. Roderkerk

1. It was established that it was important to try to make certain places attractive for people to park their cars, and make it impossible for them to park elsewhere, "but it might take 20 years to find the right solution".
2. It was thought the erection of too many signs was no solution. "The more signs you put up, the less people take notice of them". Another solution was required. Dr. Köpp said that the arguments people used against such solutions were often used as excuses for not doing something constructive themselves.
3. The problems in England were quite different than those elsewhere in Europe, where free access was traditional in open country. Dr. Köpp asked whether this free access should be extended to cover horses, "a growing enterprise", for example.

GROUP 3—ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Chaired by Peter Townsend

1. National Parks should actively involve themselves in environmental education programmes.
2. These are best achieved at a local level (i.e. regional rather than central) for example Losehill Hall. Interpretation is the key method of achieving these programmes. Starting with information, it should lead through observation to understanding.
3. Dr. Köpp made the point that the interchange of ideas should not be done only at the high, ministerial level, but at the practical level, for example, as in this conference. National Parks and other countryside organisations could have a co-ordinating role with the various other agencies in their area.

GROUP 4—THE LOCAL POPULATION

Chaired by Dr. D. M. Calder, University of Melbourne, Australia

There was a clear feeling that local people felt very antagonistic towards Category "C" landscapes if they lived in them. They were afraid of "fossilisation" and were hostile towards the word "park". A representative from Canada suggested the alternative "heritage area", to show it was their heritage which was concerned.

There was a need for better and more effective communications, i.e. "bridge-building". How could this be done?

1. Setting up "citizen advisory committees" including leaders of opposition in the community.

2. The need to "be a local". Park administrators should try to become part of the local community, living inside the area.
3. When small things were promised in discussions with locals, they should be seen to be done.

Town and Country Planning in Britain

AUDREY LEES, County Planning Officer,
Merseyside County Council

The British National Park system depends on the British system of Town and Country Planning, and that is complicated. Relevant Acts and Orders are extensive, and a straight account would make dull listening. Reference books exist elsewhere.

What was needed for this conference was a simple and imaginative presentation, and that was given by Audrey Lees, County Planning Officer for Merseyside.

It was a condition of hers that she would not present a paper, and to attempt to constitute one afterwards would be to miss the point in what was essentially a personal presentation—and an excellent one.

Miss Lees managed in a very short time to set the historical context of planning, the basis of the post-1947 system, the way planning had been applied and modified, the benefits and some of the problems. She illustrated the inter-relationship between town and country.

A very full discussion followed, including the pros and cons of participation. A great deal of interest in town and country planning was aroused by the talk.

Working with the Local Population

L. P. BALAY, Director, Parc Naturel Regional d'Armorique, France

THE NATURAL PARKS

French Natural Parks were founded in 1967. At that time, their main aim was to provide recreation areas to the population from the regional metropolis. They were a union of parishes which had been joined by the counties and more recently by the "regions". The charter setting up the Natural Parks gave them no specific laws, contrary to National Parks. In a Natural Park, property, building, hunting and fishing were under the same laws in use all over France to protect the environment.

Under those circumstances, the objective of a Natural Park was mainly to institute actions, which it did in the following ways—

—to engage staff whose duty was to make the local authorities and population aware of problems.

—to give parishes and private people directly, or indirectly, more help than in the rest of the country (both with money and advice).

—to manage experiments which could be realised on a larger scale by the population.

POPULATION WITHIN THE NATURAL PARKS

The study of population did not give comparable data to classify the different Natural Parks. We have three main types of Parks:

—in the mountainous regions, with an economy largely based upon forestry and with a very low density of population (Corsica, Landes de Gascogen, Morvan, Vercors, Queyras).

—rural districts with a large agricultural area (Armorique, Forest d'Orient, Normandie-Main, Marais Poitevin).

—close to a metropolis (Briere, Brotonne, Camargue, Haut-Languedoc, Lorraine, Luberon, Pilat, Saint-Amant-Raisme, Volcans, Vosges).

Though the surface of the Natural Parks represented 4% of the country, the population was only 2% of the country. This clearly showed that Natural Parks were regional regions with a density of population under the national average. In the parks, mainly in the second two types, we found two sorts of people:

—people working locally (farmers, shopkeepers, rural craftsmen, etc.) who know the difficulties linked with depopulation in their classes.

—retired, locally-born, but who had spent most of their life elsewhere.

These factors made the setting up and advancing of ideas long and difficult, especially where landscape preservation was concerned.

Countrymen consider it as a typical town-dweller's idea which could not be realised inside a town, so it was imposed on the country.

BUILDINGS

Several Natural Parks' areas were registered with the "Landscape Authority". No changes in the landscape (buildings, quarries etc.) could be done without the agreement of a County Commission.

This had been felt to be a constraint by the local population and led Natural Parks to create the "Aide Architecturale" Agencies.

In these agencies, architects paid by the Parks helped those who wanted to build (houses, factories, sheds and so on), choosing the most appropriate structures, shapes, and materials. They were a link between people and county commissions. Their advice was free and not compulsory.

These architects were either engaged by the Park or were private architects under contract for the whole area of a Park or only for part of it.

Another objective of these Agencies was to educate pupils at school and to teach skilled craftsmen.

Thanks to this well developed action, the architects, local authorities and civil servants concerned with the preservation of interesting old houses were all well known. In some parks they had brought money to help those who wanted to preserve typical rural houses.

A very important part of the Natural Park staff's work was to help local authorities preserve local monuments (churches, crosses, fountains, bridges, etc.).

FORESTRY AND UPLAND HUSBANDRY

In most parks, moorland grazing used to exist but had now disappeared as it seemed no longer adapted to today's economy.

In order to keep a very large variety of landscapes, Natural Parks had to reintroduce this tradition.

The Natural Park of Corsica had restored over 100 sheepfolds and this had brought back traditional patterns of agriculture to the island's interior.

In the marshes of Briere, the park had brought back cows and horses and helped the breeders who wanted to do the same.

The Natural Park of Armorique had put horses and sheep to graze on the moors, and now some breeders had started doing it as well. On better soils those moors, once used as cultivated land, had again been cleared to create an important centre for the production of selected plants of potatoes. This had been done because the climate of these lands was exceptionally good for this product.

Land owners and foresters had tried to plant conifers everywhere on these lands without any planning permission. The Natural Park's aim was to seek laws and grants to prevent the scattering of too many small woods.

Coniferous forests were very important for the French economy and had to be planted, but they had to be large enough to increase local economy and ecology (need for fire protection, water supplies, layout and grazing of fire-rides of hardwood forests, rational exploitation, keeping and felling).

AGRICULTURAL AREAS

Natural Parks had helped farmers to bring in new products locally: such as fruits, chestnuts and goats.

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These new products needed a new trade organisation and local markets had reappeared.

Three Natural Parks had worked with parishes and farmers in order to help them with planning of field boundaries (banks and hedges) and small woods which had to be kept during land re-allocation.

LANDSCAPE STUDIES

Every Park had done studies to help local planners to develop their areas. These studies may cover either the whole Park or only part of it.

The aim was to gather data on climate, slopes, etc. in order to classify landscapes according to their sensitivity, so that planners would have an idea of how a new development (road, water tower, building, forest) would look in the landscape.

Meanwhile, Natural Parks were studying the ancient buildings in their areas. The aim of these studies was to know, in each area, the typical structures, shapes, materials and colours so that new builders can create modern buildings which fit in with the old ones and with their surroundings.

Working with Farming

IVOR MORTEN, Vice-Chairman, Peak Park Joint Planning Board

Behind every National Park was a virile and traditional pattern of farming. In the U.K. there were probably no real wilderness areas; so man had made a proportionately greater impact on the landscape.

The role of farming in a National Park had to be related to forestry and game preservation and conservation. The job of farming was primarily to produce food, but it also had to produce a livelihood for farmers and, in its historic role, to maintain the countryside.

There was no need to emphasise the world need for food—to have surpluses was senseless when so much of the world was underfed.

Farming played a vital role in maintaining the landscape. In the U.K., over the past 50 years, the disappearance of large ownerships run by the "landed gentry" but since broken up by the political system, had created a very significant change in the farming pattern and landscape. Small tenancies formerly within these large holdings were now being incorporated into large units.

But large was not necessarily better in terms of the size of farms in areas like the National Park. Traditionally, farmers here often had a second job, for example lead mining or quarrying. (The average farm size in the Park was about 80 acres, or 30 ha.)

Those in power were too often only concerned with the size of the farm, where they should be more concerned with the productivity of each acre.

The disappearance of smaller farms meant larger units, reduced landscape value, and less individual contact. The total loss was something you could not measure. Taking the Peak Park as an example, we had lost thousands of miles of stone walls in the last 25 years, a considerable impact on the landscape.

The countryside was the farmer's workshop, and pressures were always "knocking at the door". These included:

—Roads. "There is a sort of maniac who must build roads but doesn't think of their impact".

—Water. Vast areas of valley land had been flooded, destroying the essential balance between valley and hill farming.

—Industry. For example, the demand for more and more limestone, so much of which was covered in tarmac to make new roads.

—People, especially in cars. People were desperate to get out of their industrial surroundings, but there was a danger of them destroying what they came to see.

There was a need to reconcile the gap between town and country. In the Peak Park, it had been proved you could have people on the moors at the same time as sheep and grouse, which were essential to maintain the uplands as they were.

The shepherds, farmers and gamekeepers maintained the landscape to be enjoyed in the 76 square miles of access land where the public had the right to roam. And the ranger service eased the problems of the local inhabitants and the tourists.

The information services provided a further method of reconciliation by interpretation of the landscape on the spot, and education was also becoming increasingly important in this role.

Farming was important to maintain a population which was socially and economically viable, and at the same time contributing to the historic landscape. "We must all strive to be good to our land. It is all we have got, and we won't get any more".

Land Management and Executive Panels in the Peak District

THEO BURRELL, National Park Officer, Peak National Park

Rural land management came down to talking to the right people, seeking to advise them, and seeing that the right things happened.

It also meant recognising that each group had its own interest, and being able to see the other person's point of view.

There were five main interests in rural land management matters. These were:

1. Farming
2. Forestry
3. Outdoor recreation
4. Wildlife and nature conservation and
5. The sporting interests.

In devising the basic proposals in the National Park Plan, the Peak National Park Board convened a "Rural Land Management Advisory Panel" consisting of six independent experts representing these interests; appointed in consultation with the other main organisations concerned with these activities. It was used as a discussion forum at which the

Peak Board officers put forward various ideas for debate and further development.

Following the work of the Advisory Panel, a "Rural Land Management Executive Group" was convened consisting of the main organisations concerned with executing Government policies or representing the owners and occupiers of land who make the ultimate decisions on land management. The members of the Group represent the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry Commission, Nature Conservancy Council, Peak Board, National Farmers' Union, and a joint representative of the Country Landowners' Association and the Timber Growers' Organisation. This Group considered the general land use policies suggested by the Advisory Panel and agreed proposals for the ways in which these policies could be implemented.

The Executive Group had proved to be a valuable way of exchanging ideas, and a useful forum at which policies could be devised and suggestions made for their implementation.

It is intended that the Group will continue to meet at regular intervals, to carry out further studies and devise detailed proposals and policies so that a common approach and joint method of working can be maintained.

Conclusions

WORKING WITH THE LOCAL POPULATION AND FARMING

L. P. Balay and Ivor Morten

1. Farming was essential to provide food, a livelihood for local people and, in its historic role, to maintain the landscape. Modern farming methods however, with the tendency towards larger farm units, was working against last role.
2. Farmers and local people have a vital role to play in the democratic structure of Parks, and its continued conservation and culture, e.g. French system.
3. Parks, rather than Government, should work with parishes and farmers on local matters. "The Government could not have set up a Ranger Service".
4. Pressures on Parks and farming were often the same in these areas e.g. roads, water, extractive industry, and visitors.
5. There was an increasing awareness of countryside matters by townspeople.

List of Conference Participants

Dr. E. Czwiertnia, Council for the Protection of Nature, Vienna, Austria.

Mr. J. F. Archibald, Conservation Management, Nature Conservancy Council, Oxford.

General Wilson, National Park Officer, Exmoor National Park, Somerset.

Mr. R. G. Curran, Lecturer, Teesside College of Education, Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

Mr. D. C. Statham, National Park Officer, North Yorks Moors National Park, Yorkshire.

Mr. J. R. Turner, Assistant Director, Countryside Commission for Scotland, Perth.

Mr. P. H. Van Gessel, Landscape Parc Division, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Holland.

Mr. Leo Michiels, Bond Beter Leefmilieu/Inter-environment, Brussels, Belgium.

Mr. D. Kellegher, Superintendent, Bourn Vincent Memorial Park, Killarney.

Mr. J. F. Burkitt, Superintendent, Glenveagh National Park, Donegal.

Mr. K. Bungay, Assistant National Park Officer, Dartmoor National Park, Exeter, Devon.

Mr. P. Borg, Conservation Officer, WWF Finland.

Mr. H. H. Holden Jensen, Head of Division, Danish National Agency for Protection of Nature.

Mr. G. Middleton, Chief Resources Officer, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania.

Mr. R. J. Irvine, General Manager, Parks & Conservation Branch, Dept. of Tourism, Parks & Conservation, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Mr. J. J. R. Pilon, Superintendent, Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta, Canada.

Mr. F. Cromlin-Offergeld, Member of Administrative Council of Hauges Fagnes National Park, Eupen, Brussels, Belgium.

Mr. C. Blinkenberg, Sekretariatschef, Kirkepladsen 4, 6200 Abenra, Denmark.

Mr. J. Hendriksen, Head General Recreation Problems, Royal Dutch Touring Club, The Hague, Holland.

Mr. G. Drye, P. & TO II Assistant Land Agent, Nature Conservancy Council, Bangor.

Ms. L. Herbst, Secretary, Standing Committee on National Parks, London.

Mr. P. Damgaard, Graduated Forester, Fredningsplanudvalget for Bornholms amt., Sekretariatet, Ringvejen 1, 3700 Ronne, Bornholm Island, Denmark.

Mr. A. Vaughan, Senior Planner, Ontario Region Parks, Canada.

Mr. D. Harris, Area Superintendent of Prince Edward Island Parks, Canada.

22 Dr. H. Helmut Stoiber, Office of Nature Protection, Linz, Austria.

Mr. E. H. Bakker, Netherlands.

Mr. A. H. Dorresteyn, Netherlands.

Dr. D. M. Calder, Chairman, Botany School, University of Melbourne, Australia.

Mr. Michael Feist, Countryside Advisory Officer, Countryside Commission, Cheltenham.

Mr. Cesare Macchi Cassia, Member of Study Group for Beigua National Park, Italy.

Mr. Veleriu Pusvariu, Professeur Membre de la Commission des Monuments Naturels, Academie R.S.R. de Roumanie.

Mr. Howard White, Senior Assistant, National Park Plan, Peak Park Joint Planning Board.

Mrs. C. Lambrechts, General Secretary for the French Society for the Law of the Environment, Strasbourg, France.

Mr. Hussein Mohseninia, Iran.

Dr. Hale, U.S.A.

Mr. Rogner, West Germany.

Mr. Phil Bennell, Assistant Director, Peak Park Joint Planning Board.

Miss Saskia Conggrijp, Landscape Architect Student, Wageningen University, Holland.

Mr. Henry Makowski, F.V.S. Foundation, Hamburg, West Germany.

Mr. S. Frost, Dept. of Biology, University of Salford, Manchester.

Mr. Bob Forster, Senior Planner, Lake District National Park.

List of Speakers

M. L. P. Balay, Director, Parc Naturel Regional d'Armorique, France.

Mr. Theo Burrell, National Park Officer, Peak National Park.

Mr. Rawdon Goodier, Advisory Officer, Nature Conservancy Council, Edinburgh.

Mr. A. F. Holford-Walker, European Environmental Bureau/C.P.R.E., London.

Dr. Hans Köpp, Göttingen University, West Germany.

Miss Audrey Lees, County Planning Officer, Merseyside County Council.

Mr. Patrick Leonard, Assistant Director, Countryside Commission, Cheltenham.

Mr. Ivor Morten, Member of the Peak Park Joint Planning Board.

Dr. E. C. M. Roderkerk, previously Director, Die Kennemenduinnen National Park, Netherlands.

Mr. Peter Townsend, Principal, Peak National Park Study Centre.

Peak National Park Study Centre

The Centre

Losehill Hall is the first residential centre to be established by a National Park Authority in Britain, and it has been provided by the Peak Park Joint Planning Board assisted by the Countryside Commission. It was opened in November, 1972, by Princess Anne and its purpose is to give people the opportunity to learn more about the Peak District National Park and the countryside, and to provide a pleasant place in which to stay whilst doing so. It aims to give an awareness of the principles and problems which raise important issues in National Parks, especially the Peak District, and the environment generally.

Accommodation

The Centre was originally a private house built in 1882 by a business man who owned lead mines in Castleton and some cotton mills in Manchester. It stands in 27 acres of parkland, and for its present purpose it has been modernised and an extension added so that there is accommodation for 60 in single and double bedrooms, all with hot and cold water. The whole building is centrally heated and there is an efficient drying room. There is a comfortable lounge/social area with television, and pleasant dining room. Facilities for teaching comprise a purpose-built, versatile teaching area which can be quickly and easily divided into smaller units. The range of audio-visual equipment includes a video-tape recorder and portable television camera, a large slide library and a dark-room. The library has a wide range of books related to all aspects of conservation. A shop in reception sells everyday articles, including pens, notebooks and publications.

How to get there

The Centre is situated half a mile east of Castleton village on the A625 Sheffield/Chapel-en-le-Frith road, and is easily accessible from most parts of the United Kingdom. The nearest station is Hope (1½ miles from the Centre) on the Sheffield/Manchester line and the nearest mainline is Sheffield. The Sheffield/Castleton bus (Nos. 272 and 172) stops at the bottom of the drive. There is a large car park.

Motorway Exit Points: Visitors travelling north or south on the M1 and M6 motorways may find the following recommended exit points useful in planning their journey to Losehill Hall:

Northwards on M1	Exit 29 to A617
Southwards on M1	Exit 36 to A61 to A57
Northwards on M6	Exit 14 to A34 to A520
Southwards on M6/M61/M63	Exit 11 (on M63) to A6

Further help?

For full details of courses and further information please contact the Principal, Peter Townsend, Losehill Hall, Castleton, Derbyshire, S30 2WB. Telephone: Office, Hope Valley (STD 0433) 20373; Residents, 20568.